

message to the transgender community: We have your back.

The dangerous rhetoric we have seen across the country—including in this very body—in the last week is nothing short of reprehensible, and I for one will not allow this hateful and vitriolic rhetoric to go unanswered.

Transgender people don't need to be changed, criminalized, or eradicated. They need to be loved, they need to be supported, and they need to be able to look to their leaders in Washington and trust that we will protect their rights to live freely and safely, just as we would any other person in America.

Oregon has consistently led the way in the fight for transgender rights, and I am so proud to be from a State that prizes support over suspicion, compassion over culture wars, and humanity over hatred.

In Oregon we say gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans, nonbinary, two spirits, queer, intersex, and asexual.

Oregon is proof that we can be better than this, and for the sake of the transgender community we must be.

#### HONORING EDNA MORRIS

(Mr. MORAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, Edna Morris, who recently joined our Lord in Heaven.

During my time as a Smith County judge, I had the pleasure of working directly with Edna, an optimistic, gentle, and patient woman who treated everyone around her with kindness.

Edna was devout in her faith and firmly knew that her eternal future was rooted in it. She never worried. Edna consistently encouraged those around her to see the good in every situation, and she led by example.

She persevered through many obstacles and lived a full life, passionately serving her community in any way that she could, from serving Smith County as chief deputy of elections to helping in her church office, to volunteering at her granddaughter's school.

In a world where people have the choice to be anything, she always chose to be kind.

Edna will be missed deeply by me and so many others in Smith County. My prayers are with her family, friends, and all who were blessed to know her.

#### DEFENSE CONSOLIDATION

(Mr. DELUZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DELUZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss how defense industry consolidation is hurting the American people and our national security.

A 2022 Defense Department report shows the intense constriction of the defense industrial base. In 1990, there

were 51 prime defense contractors but since then, small and mid-sized contractors have been gobbled up. Now there are just five—a 90 percent reduction.

At the same time, suppliers have disappeared. Tactical missile suppliers dwindled down from 13 to 3. Satellite suppliers fell from eight to four.

This deprives the American people of competition for key elements of our defense, and military leaders have complained that current contractors often deliver behind schedule, poor quality products, at too high a cost.

This lack of competition is leaving us ill-prepared and risks our national security and readiness.

The way I see it, a weak or, frankly, nonexistent antitrust enforcement allowed this to happen.

We have got to step in to promote competition, to give smaller contractors a chance to grow, and to stave off further consolidation.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MASTER TROOPER JAMES R. BAILEY

(Mr. BANKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BANKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Master Trooper James Bailey. He was killed in the line of duty 1 week ago today.

Trooper Bailey, a native of Auburn, Indiana, was a decorated, 16-year veteran of the Indiana State police.

He was a warrior. He beat cancer three times.

In 2010, Trooper Bailey was off-duty and leaving lunch with his wife when an 87-year-old man collapsed in the parking lot. Trooper Bailey and his wife Amy, a nurse, began CPR and saved this man's life.

While many people called them heroes, Trooper Bailey simply said: It is what we do, it is what we are trained to do, and that is why we get into this profession.

That is who James Bailey was: a humble and dedicated public servant.

But I want to be very clear, especially to his children, Joseph and Sophia: Your dad was a hero, and that is how he will be remembered. We will never forget his service and his sacrifice to northeast Indiana.

God bless the Bailey family. God bless all of the law enforcement officers who risk their lives every single day to keep our families and our communities safe.

#### HOURLY MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 4 p.m. on Tuesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KEAN of New Jersey). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

#### PROVIDING FOR THE EXPENSES OF CERTAIN COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the resolution (H. Res. 197) providing for the expenses of certain committees of the House of Representatives in the One Hundred Eighteenth Congress, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 197

*Resolved,*

#### SECTION 1. COMMITTEE EXPENSES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—With respect to the One Hundred Eighteenth Congress, there shall be paid out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives, in accordance with this primary expense resolution, not more than the amount specified in subsection (b) for the expenses (including the expenses of all staff salaries) of each committee named in such subsection.

(b) COMMITTEES AND AMOUNTS.—The committees and amounts referred to in subsection (a) are: Committee on Agriculture, \$14,193,788; Committee on Armed Services, \$25,961,870; Committee on the Budget, \$11,989,390; Committee on Education and the Workforce, \$19,066,789; Committee on Energy and Commerce, \$27,696,649; Committee on Ethics, \$9,276,290; Committee on Financial Services, \$20,370,000; Committee on Foreign Affairs, \$21,653,516; Committee on Homeland Security, \$18,923,976; Committee on House Administration, \$15,307,290; Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, \$17,195,413; Committee on the Judiciary, \$22,713,454; Committee on Natural Resources, \$17,602,284; Committee on Oversight and Accountability, \$29,923,636; Committee on Rules, \$8,335,614; Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, \$16,291,019; Committee on Small Business, \$7,370,092; Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, \$8,892,625; Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, \$21,766,388; Committee on Veterans' Affairs, \$10,753,197; and Committee on Ways and Means, \$27,306,852.

#### SEC. 2. FIRST SESSION LIMITATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount provided for in section 1 for each committee named in subsection (b), not more than the amount specified in such subsection shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2023, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2024.

(b) COMMITTEES AND AMOUNTS.—The committees and amounts referred to in subsection (a) are: Committee on Agriculture, \$7,096,894; Committee on Armed Services, \$12,294,760; Committee on the Budget, \$5,994,695; Committee on Education and the Workforce, \$9,255,723; Committee on Energy and Commerce, \$13,752,741; Committee on Ethics, \$4,517,066; Committee on Financial Services, \$10,185,000; Committee on Foreign

Affairs, \$10,826,758; Committee on Homeland Security, \$9,461,988; Committee on House Administration, \$7,405,638; Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, \$8,197,541; Committee on the Judiciary, \$11,356,727; Committee on Natural Resources, \$8,801,142; Committee on Oversight and Accountability, \$14,772,228; Committee on Rules, \$4,167,807; Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, \$7,902,914; Committee on Small Business, \$3,621,296; Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, \$4,470,816; Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, \$10,883,194; Committee on Veterans' Affairs, \$5,271,175; and Committee on Ways and Means, \$13,004,876.

#### SEC. 3. SECOND SESSION LIMITATIONS.

(a) *IN GENERAL*.—Of the amount provided for in section 1 for each committee named in subsection (b), not more than the amount specified in such subsection shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2024, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2025.

(b) *COMMITTEES AND AMOUNTS*.—The committees and amounts referred to in subsection (a) are: Committee on Agriculture, \$7,096,894; Committee on Armed Services, \$13,667,110; Committee on the Budget, \$5,994,695; Committee on Education and the Workforce, \$9,811,066; Committee on Energy and Commerce, \$13,943,908; Committee on Ethics, \$4,759,224; Committee on Financial Services, \$10,185,000; Committee on Foreign Affairs, \$10,826,758; Committee on Homeland Security, \$9,461,988; Committee on House Administration, \$7,901,652; Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, \$8,997,872; Committee on the Judiciary, \$11,356,727; Committee on Natural Resources, \$8,801,142; Committee on Oversight and Accountability, \$15,151,408; Committee on Rules, \$4,167,807; Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, \$8,388,105; Committee on Small Business, \$3,748,796; Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, \$4,421,809; Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, \$10,883,194; Committee on Veterans' Affairs, \$5,482,022; and Committee on Ways and Means, \$14,301,976.

#### SEC. 4. VOUCHERS.

Payments under this resolution shall be made on vouchers authorized by the committee involved, signed by the chair of such committee, and approved in the manner directed by the Committee on House Administration.

#### SEC. 5. REGULATIONS.

Amounts made available under this resolution shall be expended in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Committee on House Administration.

#### SEC. 6. RESERVE FUND FOR UNANTICIPATED EXPENSES.

(a) *ESTABLISHMENT*.—There is hereby established a reserve fund for unanticipated expenses of committees for the One Hundred Eighteenth Congress.

(b) *AMOUNT*.—The reserve fund under this section shall have a balance of \$4,000,000, of which—

(1) \$1,500,000 shall be available for unanticipated expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2023, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2024; and

(2) \$2,500,000 shall be available for unanticipated expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2024, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2025.

(c) *ALLOCATION TO COMMITTEES*.—Amounts in the reserve fund under this section shall be paid to a committee pursuant to an allo-

cation approved by the Committee on House Administration.

#### SEC. 7. ADJUSTMENT AUTHORITY.

The Committee on House Administration shall have authority to make adjustments in amounts under section 1, if necessary to comply with an order of the President issued under section 251A or 254 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or to conform to any change in appropriations for the purposes of such section 1.

#### COMMITTEE AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the committee amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Strike out all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. COMMITTEE EXPENSES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS.

(a) *IN GENERAL*.—With respect to the One Hundred Eighteenth Congress, there shall be paid out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives, in accordance with this primary expense resolution, not more than the amount specified in subsection (b) for the expenses (including the expenses of all staff salaries) of each committee named in such subsection.

(b) *COMMITTEES AND AMOUNTS*.—The committees and amounts referred to in subsection (a) are: Committee on Agriculture, \$14,194,000; Committee on Armed Services, \$24,740,000; Committee on the Budget, \$11,990,000; Committee on Education and the Workforce, \$18,674,000; Committee on Energy and Commerce, \$27,411,000; Committee on Ethics, \$9,276,000; Committee on Financial Services, \$20,370,000; Committee on Foreign Affairs, \$21,654,000; Committee on Homeland Security, \$18,778,000; Committee on House Administration, \$15,307,000; Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, \$17,195,000; Committee on the Judiciary, \$22,714,000; Committee on Natural Resources, \$17,546,000; Committee on Oversight and Accountability, \$29,923,000; Committee on Rules, \$8,336,000; Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, \$14,111,000; Committee on Small Business, \$7,370,000; Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, \$8,892,000; Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, \$21,766,000; Committee on Veterans' Affairs, \$10,753,000; and Committee on Ways and Means, \$24,232,000.

#### SEC. 2. FIRST SESSION LIMITATIONS.

(a) *IN GENERAL*.—Of the amount provided for in section 1 for each committee named in subsection (b), not more than the amount specified in such subsection shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2023, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2024.

(b) *COMMITTEES AND AMOUNTS*.—The committees and amounts referred to in subsection (a) are: Committee on Agriculture, \$7,097,000; Committee on Armed Services, \$11,716,000; Committee on the Budget, \$5,995,000; Committee on Education and the Workforce, \$9,065,000; Committee on Energy and Commerce, \$13,611,000; Committee on Ethics, \$4,517,000; Committee on Financial Services, \$10,185,000; Committee on Foreign Affairs, \$10,827,000; Committee on Homeland Security, \$9,389,000; Committee on House Administration, \$7,405,000; Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, \$8,197,000; Committee on the Judiciary, \$11,357,000; Committee on Natural Resources, \$8,773,000; Committee on Oversight and Accountability, \$14,772,000; Committee on Rules, \$4,168,000; Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, \$6,845,000; Committee on Small Business, \$3,621,000; Select Committee

on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, \$4,471,000; Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, \$10,883,000; Committee on Veterans' Affairs, \$5,271,000; and Committee on Ways and Means, \$11,540,000.

#### SEC. 3. SECOND SESSION LIMITATIONS.

(a) *IN GENERAL*.—Of the amount provided for in section 1 for each committee named in subsection (b), not more than the amount specified in such subsection shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2024, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2025.

(b) *COMMITTEES AND AMOUNTS*.—The committees and amounts referred to in subsection (a) are: Committee on Agriculture, \$7,097,000; Committee on Armed Services, \$13,024,000; Committee on the Budget, \$5,995,000; Committee on Education and the Workforce, \$9,609,000; Committee on Energy and Commerce, \$13,800,000; Committee on Ethics, \$4,759,000; Committee on Financial Services, \$10,185,000; Committee on Foreign Affairs, \$10,827,000; Committee on Homeland Security, \$9,389,000; Committee on House Administration, \$7,902,000; Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, \$8,998,000; Committee on the Judiciary, \$11,357,000; Committee on Natural Resources, \$8,773,000; Committee on Oversight and Accountability, \$15,151,000; Committee on Rules, \$4,168,000; Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, \$7,266,000; Committee on Small Business, \$3,749,000; Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, \$4,421,000; Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, \$10,883,000; Committee on Veterans' Affairs, \$5,482,000; and Committee on Ways and Means, \$12,692,000.

#### SEC. 4. VOUCHERS.

Payments under this resolution shall be made on vouchers authorized by the committee involved, signed by the chair of such committee, and approved in the manner directed by the Committee on House Administration.

#### SEC. 5. REGULATIONS.

Amounts made available under this resolution shall be expended in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Committee on House Administration.

#### SEC. 6. RESERVE FUND FOR UNANTICIPATED EXPENSES.

(a) *ESTABLISHMENT*.—There is hereby established a reserve fund for unanticipated expenses of committees for the One Hundred Eighteenth Congress.

(b) *AMOUNT*.—The reserve fund under this section shall have a balance of \$18,000,000, of which—

(1) \$9,000,000 shall be available for unanticipated expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2023, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2024; and

(2) \$9,000,000 shall be available for unanticipated expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2024, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2025.

(c) *ALLOCATION TO COMMITTEES*.—Amounts in the reserve fund under this section shall be paid to a committee pursuant to an allocation approved by the Committee on House Administration.

#### SEC. 7. ADJUSTMENT AUTHORITY.

The Committee on House Administration shall have authority to make adjustments in amounts under section 1, if necessary to comply with an order of the President issued under section 251A or 254 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or to conform to any change in appropriations for the purposes of such section 1.

Mr. STEIL (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

The committee amendment was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider is laid on the table.

#### NATIONAL SALES TAX WOULD BE A DISASTER

(Mr. NICKEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 212, a resolution I was proud to introduce earlier this week with Congressman SORESENSEN and Congresswoman PETTERSEN.

My resolution is simple and opposes the 30 percent national sales tax plan proposed by several of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

A 30 percent sales tax would be a disaster for working families in my district who are already dealing with high prices of gas, exorbitant housing costs, and rising costs of living. It would hit seniors living on a fixed income especially hard.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve more than mere messaging and performative politics over the next 2 years, and this plan is just that.

I came to Congress to get things done, and I will work with anyone—Democrats, Republicans, and Independents—to lower costs, simplify the Tax Code for the middle class, and tackle the most pressing kitchen table issues facing North Carolina families.

#### BALANCING THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND THE RIGHT TO LIFE

(Ms. MACE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a very important issue in South Carolina's First Congressional District, the State of South Carolina, and the United States of America.

Last week, a member of the State legislature in South Carolina filed a piece of legislation that would execute women who have abortions. To see this debate go to the dark places, the dark edges where it has gone on both sides of the aisle, has been deeply disturbing to me as a woman, as a female legislator, as a mom, and as a victim of rape. I was raped as a teenager at the age of 16.

This debate ought to be a bipartisan debate where we balance the rights of women and we balance the right to life.

But we aren't having that conversation here in D.C., we aren't having that conversation at home, and we aren't having that conversation with fellow State lawmakers.

This week, I filed a bill that would give women greater access to contraceptives by cutting the red tape, reducing the application fees with the FDA,

and reducing that application process by half.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to get on board with these issues today.

#### CONGRESS HAS THE SOLE AUTHORITY TO AUTHORIZE MILITARY INVOLVEMENTS

(Ms. HOYLE of Oregon asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, the American people are fed up with the United States being involved in endless military conflicts around the world.

For far too long, Presidents of both parties have overstepped their constitutional authority by engaging in dubious legal gymnastics to continue involving U.S. troops in endless wars and conflicts without congressional authorization.

Article I of the Constitution is clear. Congress has the sole authority to authorize military involvements in overseas conflict. Once authorized by Congress, Article II of the Constitution allows the President to direct the military as Commander in Chief.

Congress must reassert its sole authority and not allow the executive branch to sidestep us.

As the largest and most diverse group in the Federal Government responsible for representing the American people and their interests, Congress should engage in debate before the executive branch can involve U.S. troops in wars overseas.

Tens of thousands of U.S. troops have been put in harm's way and trillions of taxpayer dollars have been spent on overseas military ventures around the world without proper debate or oversight from Congress.

Enough is enough. That is why I support the Syria War Powers Resolution that the House voted on earlier this week.

□ 1045

#### PRESIDENT BIDEN'S BUDGET

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support President Biden's new 2024 budget proposal.

This budget is just what the country needs to move forward. It includes caps on insulin payments to \$35 for all Americans. It restores the enhanced child tax credit and provides up to \$3,600 per family per child. It contains \$4.5 billion for infrastructure projects. It has \$700 million for the Hudson River tunnel and Gateway Program, and it includes \$219 million to eliminate lead pipes from drinking water around the country.

This budget represents strong leadership, and it supports investments in

the future of American prosperity. I am proud to support President Biden's new budget.

Now we need Speaker MCCARTHY to show the same responsibility and leadership with his budget proposal.

#### GET AMERICANS WORKING AGAIN

(Mr. MOONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MOONEY. Mr. Speaker, going to work is more than just earning a paycheck. It is an important part of human dignity. Unfortunately, too many Americans are getting paid not to work.

According to a recent study, Americans can receive more money to stay home than they could putting in a hard day's work. According to the findings, a family of four in three States can receive more than \$100,000 in cash and benefits per year without working. A further 14 States allow a family of four to receive more than \$80,000 in cash and benefits without working.

In West Virginia, my home State, two unemployed parents with two minor children can make over \$73,000 in unemployment benefits and healthcare subsidies. Unfortunately, this is more than essential workers, like our firefighters or our truck drivers, make in a year.

Hardworking West Virginians helped build America. From the coal industry to the logging industry, our Nation needs Mountaineers to keep America moving forward.

While it is true that the CARES Act provided unemployment benefits for Americans in the early days of the coronavirus pandemic, the pandemic is over. Even President Joe Biden said as much on "60 Minutes."

Now Congress needs to provide bipartisan solutions to get Americans working again.

#### SUPPORTING CAREER PATHWAYS

(Ms. BUDZINSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce my first bill as a Member of Congress, the LEAP Act.

This bipartisan piece of legislation aims to create new opportunities for American workers by supporting apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeship programs. These training programs are a proven way to address the job skills gap and to get folks ready for careers in growing industries.

By providing tax credits to small businesses, this bill will both address the need for more qualified workers and cut educational costs, a win-win for employers and working people.

I thank former Congressman RODNEY DAVIS, who was the first to introduce this legislation back in 2013, and I thank Congressman MIKE CAREY for